

“Preserving the Unity” – Part II

Ephesians 4:3

Intro:

The Greek word for “*fellowship*” is “*koinonia*”. The word literally means communion. In the noun form it means = partner, to have a partner, to be a partner, to have a common bond with someone, to have fellowship with someone. For every person it is a basic need.

- That means that *in the heart of every person beats a need for fellowship, for oneness, for wholeness, for belonging to something and feeling included.*

So far, we have considered...

- I. **The Theology of Fellowship:** *That God, in Christ, has made us one.*
- II. **The Nature of Fellowship:** *What is it? How does it act?*

This morning... [Part II]

- III. **The Foundation of Fellowship:** *What is the catalyst of real fellowship?*

The key word is, “*One another*”. There are over 59 *one another* passages in the New Testament alone. So, it’s important how I treat you, and it’s important how you treat me.

- When you look at these *one-another* verses, a few common themes show up.

UNITY: One third of the one-another commands deal with the Unity of the Church.

1. Be at peace with one another (Mk 9:50)
2. Don't grumble among one another (Jn 6:43)
3. Be of the same mind with one another (Ro 12:16, 15:5)
4. Accept one another (Ro 15:7)
5. Wait for one another before beginning Communion (1 Co 11:33)
6. Don't bite, devour, one another (Ga 5:15)
7. Don't boastfully challenge or envy one another (Ga 5:26).
8. Gently, patiently tolerate one another (Ep 4:2)
9. Be kind, tender-hearted, and forgiving to one another (Ep 4:32)
10. Bear with and forgive one another (Co 3:13)
11. Seek good for one another, and don't repay evil for evil (1 Th 5:15)
12. Don't complain against one another (Jas 4:11, 5:9)
13. Confess sins to one another (Jas 5:16)

LOVE: One third of them instruct Christians to love one another.

1. Love one another (Jn 13:34, 15:12, 17; Ro 13:8; 1 Th 3:12, 4:9; 1 Pe 1:22; 1 Jn 3:11, 4:7, 11; 2 Jn 5)
2. Through love, serve one another (Ga 5:13)
3. Tolerate one another in love (Ep 4:2)
4. Greet one another with a kiss of love (1 Pe 5:14)
5. Be devoted to one another in love (Ro 12:10)

HUMILITY: About 15% stress an attitude of humility and deference among believers.

1. Give preference to one another in honor (Ro 12:10)
2. Regard one another as more important than yourselves (Php 2:3)
3. Serve one another (Ga 5:13)
4. Wash one another's feet (Jn 13:14)
5. Don't be haughty: be of the same mind (Ro 12:16)
6. Be subject to one another (Ep 5:21)
7. Clothe yourselves in humility toward one another (1 Pe 5:5)

Here's a few more:

1. Do not judge one another, and don't put a stumbling block in a brother's way (Ro 14:13)
2. Greet one another with a kiss (Ro 16:16; 1 Co 16:20; 2 Co 13:12)
3. Bear one another's burdens (Ga 6:2)
4. Speak truth to one another (Ep 4:25)
5. Don't lie to one another (Co 3:9)
6. Comfort one another concerning the resurrection (1 Th 4:18)
7. Encourage and build up one another (1 Th 5:11)
8. Stimulate one another to love and good deeds (He 10:24)
9. Pray for one another (Jas 5:16)
10. Be hospitable to one another (1 Pe 4:9)

In our last study we looked at – *love one another*. This morning we're going to consider just a few more of these practical things that I need to do with you, and you need to do with me.

(1) **James 5:16**, the exhortation is “*Confess you sins to one another...*” *There's two very serious problems in our lives if we don't do this*

A. One of the problems is this: *If I don't share with you my heart, if I don't share with you my pain, if I don't share with you my struggle and inconsistency – there's is no way in the world that you're going to be able to minister to me.*

B. The second problem is this: *If you're not opening your heart to people, you're not going to have anybody opening theirs to you. People have a hard time with perfection.*

(2) **Ephesians 4:32**, “*Forgive one another...*”

(3) **1 Thessalonians 5:11**, “*Therefore encourage one another and build each other up.*”

The word there is Parakaleo (par-ak-al-eh'-o), which simply means, “*To come alongside and to strengthen, to come alongside and to comfort, to come alongside and to encourage.*”

Application: